

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A processing device comprising: an advancing mechanism and a number of processing stations arranged in succession in the advancement direction, wherein at least one of the processing stations for the processing of a number of separate objects disposable at the processing station in object receiving positions lying essentially perpendicular to the advancement direction in spaced next to one another condition, which processing station is equipped with a number of work tools corresponding in number to the number of object receiving positions, and wherein in said at least one processing station individual work tools are provided and/or groups of work tools are provided with the number of work tools of each group being smaller than the number of the object receiving positions of the processing station, and wherein the individual work tools and/or groups of work tools are arranged as functionally separate units, so that during the operation of the processing station bending forces applied to each work tool carrier are essentially applied only to the associated individual unit .
2. (Previously Presented) A processing device comprising: an advancing mechanism and a number of processing stations arranged in succession along the advancement direction, wherein the advancing device is one for advancing a single row succession of objects and the processing stations are each equipped for the processing of a single object.
3. (Previously Presented) A processing device according to claim 2 further characterized in that it is designed for the production of metal covers with tear-off foils and at least one of the processing stations is a stamping processing station with an upper work tool and a lower work tool for the stamping of a hole.

4. (Currently Amended) A processing device according to claim 3, further characterized in that one of said processing stations is a drawing processing station [(44)] for drawing the edge of the stamped hole and one of said processing stations is a sealing processing station [(47)] for applying a tear-off foil over the hole.

5. (Currently Amended) A processing device according to claim 4, further characterized in that the sealing processing station [(47)] is a combined processing station which stamps a tear-off cover [(25)] from a foil and places it over the hole.

6. (Currently Amended) A processing device according to claim 4 further characterized in that the sealing processing station is one equipped to apply a previously stamped out tear-off cover [(25)].

7. (Currently Amended) A processing device according to claim 6 further characterized in that the sealing processing station is connected in series with a stamping out station for the tear-off cover [(25)] or in series with a station for taking a tear-off cover [(25)] from a stack of such covers.

8. (Currently Amended) A processing station according to claim 7 further characterized in that the sealing processing station [(47)] is connected in series with an adhesion station and/or a pre-warming station [(46)].

9. (Currently Amended) A processing device according to claim 2 further characterized in that one of the processing stations has a coining station [(49)]

for the tear-off foil [(25)] and a bending station [(49)] for the edge of the hole, especially a combined coining and bending station.

10. (Original) A processing device according to claim 1, further characterized by a drive for the units which is a common drive for all of the units, or which drive is constructed as a number of separate drives for the units.

11. (Original) A processing device according to claim 1, further characterized in that each unit has its own drive.

12. (Currently Amended) A processing device according to claim 1 further characterized in that in the advancement direction the device is separated into at least 2 separate arrangements [(2', 2'')], especially into a first arrangement [(2')] containing the stamping processing station [(43)] and a drawing processing station [(44)], and a second arrangement [(2'')] containing a sealing processing station [(47)] and a coining processing station [(49)].

13. (Currently Amended) A processing device according to claim 2 in which individual objects [(20)] are transportable by an advancing arrangement [(52)] in a row in succession to a subsequent processing station [(43-50)] in the advancement direction, and are there capable of being processed in an object receiving position, wherein the advancing arrangement [(52)] is comprised of two conveyor belts [(75, 76)] arranged parallel to one another and driven in synchronism, on which conveyor belts individual object receivers are formed by opposed holding means [(78, 79)].

14. (Currently Amended) A processing device according to claim 13, further characterized in that it is a processing device for the production of covers [(20)] with tear-off foils [(25)] and includes at least one stamping processing station [(43)] and one sealing processing station [(47)] which are connected by way of the advancing arrangement [(52)].

15. (Previously Presented) A processing device according to claim 13, further characterized in that the holding means are magnetic holding means.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A processing device according to claim 2 further characterized in that it is designed for the production of metal covers [(20)] with tear-off foils [(25)] and at least one of the processing stations is a stamping processing station [(43)] with an upper work tool [(58, 59')] and a lower work tool [(59, 58')] for the stamping of a hole.

18. (Currently Amended) A processing device comprising: an advancing mechanism [(52)] and a number of processing stations [(43-50)] arranged in succession along the advancement direction, wherein the advancing device is one for advancing a single row succession of objects and the processing stations are each equipped for the processing of a single object such that individual objects [(20)] are transportable by an advancing arrangement [(52)] in a row in succession to a subsequent processing station [(43-50)] in the advancement direction, and are there capable of being processed in an object receiving position, wherein the advancing arrangement [(52)] is comprised of two conveyor belts [(75, 76)] arranged parallel to one another and driven in

synchronism, on which conveyor belts individual object receivers are formed by opposed holding means [(78, 79)], and wherein the processing stations are each designed for the production of metal covers [(20)] with tear-off foils [(25)] and at least one of the processing stations is a stamping processing station [(43)] with an upper work tool [(58, 59')] and a lower work tool [(59, 58')] for the stamping of a hole.

19. (Currently Amended) A processing device comprising: an advancing mechanism [(52)] and a number of processing stations [(43-50)] arranged in succession in the advancement direction, wherein at least one of the processing stations for the processing of a number of separate objects [(20)] disposable at the processing station in object receiving positions lying essentially perpendicular to the advancement direction in spaced next to one another condition, which processing station is equipped with a number of work tools [(58,58', 59, 59')] corresponding in number to the number of object receiving positions, and wherein in said at least one processing station individual work tools [(58,59)] are provided and/or groups of work tools [(58, 58', 59, 59')] are provided with the number of work tools of each group being smaller than the number of the object receiving positions of the processing station, and wherein the individual work tools and/or groups of work tools are arranged as functionally separate units [(43a-43e)], so that during the operation of the processing station bending forces applied to each work tool carrier are essentially applied only to the associated individual unit, at least one of the processing stations being designed for the production of metal covers [(20)] with tear-off foils [(25)] and at least one of the processing stations being a stamping processing station [(43)] with an upper work tool [(58, 59')] and a lower work tool [(59, 58')] for the stamping of a hole, and wherein individual objects [(20)]

are transportable by an advancing arrangement [(52)] in a row in succession to a subsequent processing station [(43-50)] in the advancement direction, and are there capable of being processed in an object receiving position, wherein the advancing arrangement [(52)] is comprised of two conveyor belts [(75, 76)] arranged parallel to one another and driven in synchronism, on which conveyor belts individual object receivers are formed by opposed holding means [(78, 79)].